

3 1) a similarity determination facility for
4 determining, using the accepted keyword
5 information, whether or not a search result is
6 similar to a search result already in the set of
7 final search results, and
8 2) means for adding the search results to the
9 set of final search results only if the
10 similarity determination facility determines that
11 the search result is not similar to any search
12 results already in the set of final search
13 result.

REMARKS

Please enter the foregoing amendments before examining this application.

New claims 46-52 correspond to claims 1, 2, 14, 37, 38, 40, and 41, respectively, from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/684,542 ("the parent application"), as amended on December 13, 2002. Since each of claims 1, 2, 14, 37, 38, 40 and 41 was rejected in the parent application, the reasons that the corresponding claims are allowable are set forth below.

New claims 46, 49 and 51

In the parent application, claims 1, 37 and 40 (corresponding to new claims 46, 49 and 51, respectively) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over UK Patent No. 2,335,761 ("the Weiss patent"). The applicants believe that this rejection was incorrect, and that new claims 46, 49 and 51 are allowable, in view of the following.

Each of independent claims 46, 49 and 51 is not rendered obvious by the Weiss patent because the Weiss patent neither teaches, nor suggests, generating, using keyword information extracted from a query, a set of final search results from search results generated based on the query.

In the parent application, the Examiner contended that the Weiss patent teaches first using a user profile to select pages of interest to the user and then filtering these pages before the results are displayed. (Paper No. 6, page 3 of the parent application.) The Examiner further contended that the Weiss patent suggests extracting keyword information from the query because it is used to perform a second search based on the results of a first search. (Paper No. 6, page 3 of the parent application.) The Examiner cited Figure 2 and page 7, line 12 through page 8, line 3 in an effort to support these contentions. In fact, the processing in the Weiss patent is performed in an order opposite to what the Examiner contended.

In the Weiss patent, a search is initiated using search parameters such as keywords to identify candidate documents. Then, a user profile is compared to a document profile of the candidate document to determine whether they match, and a candidate document is returned if there is a match. (See, e.g., claims 1 and 2 and page 3, lines 1-12 of the Weiss patent.) Using user profile information to refine a set of search results as performed in the Weiss patent neither teaches, nor suggests, using keywords extracted from a search query to refine a set of search results returned based on the search query.

The applicants believe that the Examiner may have inadvertently read certain portions of the Weiss patent out

of context. For example, the portion of the Weiss patent cited by the Examiner, states that the Web is searched for every document that matches the user's profile (page 7, lines 28-29) and that as the search evolves, it is tested to determine whether it includes the specified keyword (page 7, lines 31-32). Taken out of context, this could be misunderstood to mean that in the Weiss patent, documents matching a user profile are first retrieved and then they are tested to see whether they include a keyword. However, this is not the case. The Web is initially searched for every document that matches a user's profile if the user does not specify a keyword. More specifically, the Weiss patent states:

The user formulates a search by providing a keyword 222. The user profile 224 describing the user's background is implicitly added to the search specification. **The user also has the option to leave the keyword unspecified. If this is done,** the Web is searched for every document that matches the user's profile 224.
[Emphasis added.]

Page 7, lines 26-29. In the case where the user specifies a keyword, nodes (corresponding to Web pages) are checked to determine whether they include the specified keyword. If a node includes the specified keyword, a correlation between a user profile and a page profile for the node is determined and compared against a threshold to determine if there is a match. (Page 7, line 31-page 8, line 3.) Since this neither teaches, nor suggests, generating, using keyword information extracted from a query, a set of final search results from search results generated based on the

query, claims 46, 49 and 51 are not rendered obvious by the Weiss patent for at least this reason.

New claims 47, 48, 50 and 52

In the parent application, claims 2, 14, 38 and 41 (corresponding to new claims 47, 48, 50 and 52, respectively) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Weiss patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,634,051 ("the Thomson patent"). The applicants believe that this rejection was incorrect, and that new claims 47, 48, 50 and 52 are allowable, in view of the following.

In the parent application, the Examiner contended that the Thomson patent teaches a method including determining, using accepted keyword information, whether or not a candidate search result is similar to a search result already in a set of final search results, and if it is determined that the candidate search result is similar to a search result already in a set of final search results, then not adding the candidate search result to a set of final search results. (Paper No. 6, page 4 of the parent application.) The Examiner further contends that it would have been obvious to combine this purported teaching of the Thomson patent with that of the Weiss patent to save a user's time.

First, since claims 47 and 48 depend from claim 46, claim 50 depends from claim 49 and claim 52 depends from claim 51, and since the purported teaching of the Thomson patent does not compensate for the deficiencies of the Weiss patent as applied to claims 46, 49 and 51 (discussed above), these claims are similarly not rendered obvious by the Weiss and Thomson patents.

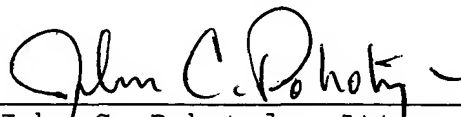
Moreover, the Thomson patent does not teach or suggest a method including determining, using accepted keyword information, whether or not a candidate search results is similar to a search result already in a set of final search results. More specifically, although the Thomson patent can remove duplicate documents, either before a search (See, e.g., column 10, lines 8-11.), or after a search (See, e.g., column 10, lines 33-37.), such duplicate documents are detected either by matching information associated with the document, such as title, authors and date of publication, or by redundant abstracts. (See, e.g., column 10, lines 12-16 and 35-37.) Thus, the Thomson patent neither teaches, nor suggests, using accepted keyword information to determine whether or not a candidate search result is similar to search result already in a set of final search results. Accordingly, claims 47, 48, 50 and 52 are not rendered obvious by the Weiss and Thomson patents for at least this additional reason.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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John C. Pokotylo, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,242
Customer No. 26479
(732) 335-1222

**SEPARATE SHEETS WITH MARKED-UP VERSION OF CHANGES TO THE
SPECIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR § 1.121(b)(2)(iii)**

The paragraph starting at page 1, line 3 has been amended as follows:

[Benefit is claimed, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)(1), to the filing date of provisional patent application serial no. 60/184,126, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Detecting Query-Specific Duplicate Documents", filed on February 22, 2000 and listing Benjamin Smith and Benedict Gomes as inventors, for any inventions disclosed in the manner provided by 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1. This provisional patent application is expressly incorporated herein by reference.]This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/684,542, entitled "DETECTING QUERY-SPECIFIC DUPLICATE DOCUMENTS", filed on October 6, 2000 and listing Benedict Gomes and Benjamin Thomas Smith as inventors, which application claimed the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)(1), to the filing date of provisional patent application serial no. 60/184,126, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Detecting Query-Specific Duplicate Documents", filed on February 22, 2000 and listing Benjamin Smith and Benedict Gomes as inventors, for any inventions disclosed in the manner provided by 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1. Benefit to these applications is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120. These applications are expressly incorporated herein by reference.